



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

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### MARITAL STATUS AND FAMILY COMPOSITION - 2006 CENSUS ACT, Queanbeyan and Australia

This article contains data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, conducted on 8 August 2006, and presents details on social marital status and family composition in households for: Australian Capital Territory (ACT); the Local Government Area (LGA) of Queanbeyan; and Australia as a whole. For comparison, data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses have also been included.

#### Social marital status

In the 2006 Census, 48.9% (113,867 persons) of ACT residents aged 15 and over reported that they were in a registered marriage and 9.8% (22,895 persons) were recorded as being in a de facto marriage.

In Queanbeyan, 48.9% (12,360 persons) of residents reported being in a registered marriage and 10.3% (2,606 persons) in a de facto marriage.

Nationally, 50.4% of persons were in a registered marriage and 8.8% in a de facto marriage.

Between 1996 and 2006 the proportion of ACT residents in a registered marriage declined from 52.4% (Census 1996) to 48.9% (Census 2006). The decline in registered marriages was mostly offset by increases in the proportion of persons in de facto marriages: 6.7% (Census 1996) to 9.8% (Census 2006).

For Australia as a whole, the proportion of residents aged 15 and over who reported that they were in a registered marriage fell from 54.1% (Census 1996) to 50.4% (Census 2006) – a bigger fall than for either the ACT or Queanbeyan. The proportion of residents in a de facto marriage rose from 6.0% in 1996 to 8.8% in 2006.

#### SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS (a), ACT, Queanbeyan (c) and Australia Census 1996, 2001 and 2006

1996		2001		2006	
No. of persons	% of persons	No. of persons	% of persons	No. of persons	% of persons
ACT					

Married in a registered marriage	109,777	52.4	111,148	50.6	113,867	48.9
Married in a de facto marriage (b)	14,000	6.7	18,456	8.4	22,895	9.8
Not married	85,736	40.9	90,188	41.0	96,072	41.3
Total	209,513	100.0	219,792	100.0	232,834	100.0

#### Queanbeyan

Married in a registered marriage	9,804	50.3	10,925	49.8	12,360	48.9
Married in a de facto marriage (b)	1,513	7.8	1,875	8.6	2,606	10.3
Not married	8,164	41.9	9,118	41.6	10,322	40.8
Total	19,481	100.0	21,918	100.0	25,288	100.0

#### Australia

Married in a registered marriage	6,874,166	54.1	7,012,586	51.9	7,158,697	50.4
Married in a de facto marriage (b)	763,660	6.0	989,238	7.3	1,242,793	8.8
Not married	5,075,495	39.9	5,497,519	40.7	5,788,624	40.8
Total	12,713,321	100.0	13,499,343	100.0	14,190,114	100.0

(a) Count of persons aged 15 years and over. Excludes persons in 'Visitor only' and 'Other not classifiable' households, 'Non-private dwellings', and 'Migratory, off-shore and shipping CDs'. Excludes persons who were temporarily absent on Census Night. (b) Includes same-sex couples. (c) The geographic boundaries of the LGA of Queanbeyan changed between Census 2001 and Census 2006 which affects comparisons between the two.

Source: Census Data

## Family Composition

In the 2006 Census, there were 84,509 families in the ACT. Of these, 47.0% were couple families with children and 36.2% were couple families with no children. In comparison, of the 76,350 ACT families identified in the 1996 Census, 52.6% were couple families with children and 30.7% were couple families without children. The proportion of one parent families remained relatively constant over the three Censuses, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

Of the 9,362 Queanbeyan families in the 2006 Census, 49.2% (4,608 families) were couple families with children, down from 50.7% in the 1996 Census. The proportion of couple families with no children was 32.9% (3,078 families) in the 2006 Census, up from 31.8% in 1996.

For Australia as a whole, the proportion of couple families with children declined to 45.3% (Census 2006) of total families, from 49.6% (Census 1996). The proportion of couple families with no children increased to 37.2% (Census 2006) from 34.1% (Census 1996).

### FAMILY COMPOSITION (a) (b), ACT, Queanbeyan (c) and Australia Census 1996, 2001 and 2006

	1996		2001		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>ACT</b>						
Families:						
Couple family with no children	23,413	30.7	27,225	33.9	30,627	36.2
Couple family with children	40,194	52.6	39,326	49.0	39,740	47.0
One parent family	11,553	15.1	12,494	15.6	12,796	15.1

Other family	1,190	1.6	1,283	1.6	1,346	1.6
Total families	76,350	100.0	80,328	100.0	84,509	100.0
Persons in families:						
Couple family with no children	46,086	19.6	53,693	22.3	60,266	24.4
Couple family with children	156,893	66.7	152,769	63.4	151,752	61.4
One parent family	29,860	12.7	32,011	13.3	32,237	13.0
Other family	2,496	1.1	2,661	1.1	2,800	1.1
Total persons in families	235,335	100.0	241,134	100.0	247,055	100.0

#### Queanbeyan

Families:						
Couple family with no children	2,227	31.8	2,562	31.9	3,078	32.9
Couple family with children	3,552	50.7	3,990	49.7	4,608	49.2
One parent family	1,103	15.7	1,332	16.6	1,546	16.5
Other family	123	1.8	140	1.7	130	1.4
Total families	7,005	100.0	8,024	100.0	9,362	100.0
Persons in families:						
Couple family with no children	4,423	20.6	5,084	20.9	6,085	21.7
Couple family with children	13,903	64.7	15,539	63.8	17,745	63.2
One parent family	2,893	13.5	3,447	14.1	3,961	14.1
Other family	260	1.2	297	1.2	277	1.0
Total persons in families	21,479	100.0	24,367	100.0	28,068	100.0

#### Australia

Families:						
Couple family with no children	1,589,882	34.1	1,764,167	35.7	1,943,648	37.2
Couple family with children	2,308,942	49.6	2,321,165	47.0	2,362,588	45.3
One parent family	672,868	14.5	762,632	15.4	823,254	15.8
Other family	84,227	1.8	88,864	1.8	89,675	1.7
Total families	4,655,919	100.0	4,936,828	100.0	5,219,165	100.0
Persons in families:						
Couple family with no children	3,161,533	22.2	3,509,331	23.6	3,848,920	25.0
Couple family with children	9,112,776	64.1	9,126,414	61.5	9,174,218	59.7
One parent family	1,766,655	12.4	2,021,307	13.6	2,154,617	14.0
Other family	179,061	1.3	188,728	1.3	189,285	1.2
Total persons in families	14,220,025	100.0	14,845,780	100.0	15,367,040	100.0

(a) Excludes persons in 'Visitor only' and 'Other not classifiable' households, 'Non-private dwellings', and 'Migratory, off-shore and shipping CDs'. Excludes persons who were temporarily absent on Census Night. (b) Includes same-sex couples. (c) The geographic boundaries of the LGA of Queanbeyan changed between Census 2001 and Census 2006 which affects comparisons between the two.

Source: Census Data

## Average family size

In the 2006 Census the average family size in the ACT was 2.9 persons, down from 3.1 in 1996 – the same as the national average.

In Queanbeyan, the average family size was 3.0 persons in the 2006 Census – the same as in 2001 – down from 3.1 in 1996.

### AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE (a) (b) ACT, Queanbeyan (c) and Australia, Census 1996, 2001 and 2006

	1996	2001	2006
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	No. of persons	No. of persons	No. of persons
<b>ACT</b>			
Average family size:			
Couple family with no children	2.0	2.0	2.0
Couple family with children	3.9	3.9	3.8
One parent family	2.6	2.6	2.5
Other family	2.1	2.1	2.1
Average family size all families	3.1	3.0	2.9
<b>Queanbeyan</b>			
Average family size (persons):			
Couple family with no children	2.0	2.0	2.0
Couple family with children	3.9	3.9	3.9
One parent family	2.6	2.6	2.6
Other family	2.1	2.1	2.1
Average family size all families	3.1	3.0	3.0
<b>Australia</b>			
Average family size (persons):			
Couple family with no children	2.0	2.0	2.0
Couple family with children	3.9	3.9	3.9
One parent family	2.6	2.7	2.6
Other family	2.1	2.1	2.1
Average family size all families	3.1	3.0	2.9
(a) Excludes persons in 'Visitor only' and 'Other not classifiable' households, 'Non-private dwellings', and 'Migratory, off-shore and shipping CDs'. Excludes persons who were temporarily absent on Census Night.			
(b) Includes same-sex couples. (c) The geographic boundaries of the LGA of Queanbeyan changed between Census 2001 and Census 2006 which affects comparisons between the two.			

Source: Census Data

## Further information

A wide range of first release 2006 Census data is available from the ABS website Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census Data, which includes additional information on family composition, relationship of persons in households and the social marital status of couples. The information can be viewed in the format of tables, thematic maps, or graphs via the online options of QuickStats, MapStats, Census Tables and Community Profiles.

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